



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

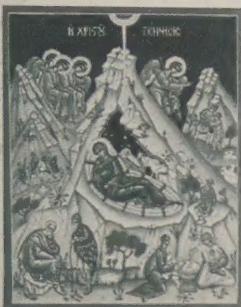
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DECEMBER 2011



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RAISES ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION!

The Cathedral's Capital Campaign Committee is pleased to announce that an additional \$2 million

has been raised during the current phase of its Capital Campaign. Of the \$2 million pledged, \$1,337,731 has come in and has been added to the Building Fund. The Phase II Building Fund began with an initial bequest of \$5 million from the late Anne and Angelo Mountanos.

The Capital Campaign Committee has, as its goal, the participation of all the members of the Annunciation Cathedral Parish, as well as individuals and organizations beyond the framework of the parish, mindful that what is being built is not simply another parish church, but the Cathedral of the Metropolis of San Francisco.

The November *Herald* announced the issuance of the Cathedral's conditional use permit, unanimously adopted by the San Francisco Planning Department. This, in itself, is not the building permit. However, it paves the way for the issuance of a building permit. This is expected to occur some time in the beginning of 2012. The permit will be valid for three years. During this time, the Cathedral needs to have its funding for the new church, with underground parking, in place so that construction may begin. This does not necessarily mean that the Cathedral needs to have all the money collected (some \$10 million), but it needs to be able to account for the funds needed.

Since we are a church family, we invite everyone to participate, to the extent that everyone is able. One can ask, in these economically challenging times, why build a church? For a lot of reasons:

First, To proclaim and affirm that "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!"

Second, To "invite" God to live among us. We read in the Book of Exodus (25:8) "Build me a sanctuary and I will appear among you." (This has become the motto of the Cathedral's Capital Campaign.)

Third, To glorify God through the beautification of His Holy Church. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the Priest stands before the Icon of Christ and prays, "Sanctify those who love the beauty of Your House."

Fourth, To offer thanksgiving to God for His gift of life and His many blessings. As we read in the Book of Psalms (30:4), "Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His Holy Name."

Fifth, To sanctify space. When a Church is consecrated, the Bishop proclaims: "This House has been founded by the Father. This House has been made firm by the Son. This House has been renewed by the Holy Spirit, which illuminates and supports, and makes our souls holy."

Sixth, To sanctify time. By celebrating the life of our Lord, as well as the feast days of His saints, notably the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, to whom the Cathedral Church is dedicated, we recall the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 6:2): "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, today is the day of salvation."

Seventh, To sanctify life. Through Baptisms, Chrismations, Holy Communion, Marriages, Churchings, Holy Confession, Holy Unction, Ordinations, Funerals, Blessings and Memorials, we recall what St. Peter tells us (II Peter 1:4): "For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them we may become partakers

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ers of divine nature."

Eighth, To ensure the continuation of the Holy Greek Orthodox Faith from generation to generation. Here, again, we recall Holy Scripture (II Timothy 1:14): "Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you."

Ninth, To serve others. St. John Chrysostom, whose Divine Liturgy we celebrate most Sundays, observed for his day, "Inside the Church, Christ is attired in silver and gold; outside the Church, He is attired in the rags of the poor." How appropriate for our time, as well! The Lord reminds us, "As you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it for Me." (Matthew 25:40)

Tenth, To hear the blessed words of our Lord on Judgment Day: "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21).

This is OUR time, OUR generation's time, to step up and do what rarely is entrusted to people: TO BUILD A CHURCH! LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD THIS CHURCH!

The Capital Campaign Committee acknowledges the following, who are participating, as of November 9, 2011: Pat & Deedy Aleck; Dr. George & Tessa Ambus; Sam & Soula Anagnostou; Anonymous; Virginia Athan-Olin Estate; Rev. Niko & Presbytera Stella Bekris; Philip & Annette Chiappari; Jim & Nina Cois; John Coundouris; Nicholas & Stephanie Delis; Andrew and Nada Blasuto Dimitriou; Dr. Anthony Elite; Despina Kokalis; Gus Konstn (John's Grill); Chris & Irene Kyriacou; Angie & Theodore Levantis; Peter & Maria Manetas; Beverly and Jerry Meyer; Helen Morales; Morgan Stanley Smith Barney; Alexander & Mari Moulinos; Michael & Erika Mountanos; Tula Mouroufas; Perri Nager; Helen Nicklas; Thomas & Liberty Nuris; Tom & Joanna Papageorge; Yiota Patiris; Philoptochos Society of the Annunciation Cathedral; Nick & Patty Rally, Roumeli Society of the Bay Area; Paul & Eva Sogotis; Marios & Anastasia Stathopoulos; Niko & Voula Stathopoulos; Nick Svetcoff; Nick Tarlson & Mauna Arnzen; Nicholas & Vasiliki Tzafopoulos; George Vlahos; James & Louise Vorries; and Gus Vouchilas.

THIS & THAT ABOUT RAISING THE MONEY TO BUILD THE CATHEDRAL

The Capital Campaign that we have been working on for almost two years now is all about going out and asking for donations to raise the money needed to build the Cathedral church. It's as simple as that. Our procedure is as follows: We call the individual(s) and request a meeting with them. The purpose of the meeting is twofold: to report to them the progress of the Campaign and the overall progress we are making, with respect to plans, the permit process, and the construction itself, AND to discuss their participation.

Dinners and dances are good tools to get people together to be able to show them our plans and explain what we are doing. But, those events are not going to raise the money needed; they are only going to get people educated about the project so, then, those people will be able to make a gift of their own.

Up until now, the Campaign committee, with the advise and direction of Father Scott, has raised \$2 million in pledges and hard contribution, as noted on the front page of this *Herald*. This has been done by taking our message about the need to build the Cathedral church to those perceived to be able to make substantial gifts. Also, all of the members of the Parish Council and our Priests have made their own personal pledges, as have the members of the Capital Campaign Committee. The next step is to go to our own community of members of the Annunciation to ask for each and every one of our members to make their own gift pledge. The way this is being done is by going through the list of all our members to set up personal meetings, to give them the opportunity to discuss the project and to consider their own donation pledge.

We have stated in the *Herald* on more than one occasion that this next step was coming, so that our parishioners could join in and offer their pledge to help build the Cathedral church. We have even had announcements from the pulpit, and members of the Capital Campaign Committee have addressed the congregation, especially on the subject of our Ambassadors program. And it is important to remember that the gift we are asking for can be paid over a period of five years. All this we've learned from Father Scott, who has helped

numerous parishes (most recently, Ascension Cathedral, Oakland) to raise the money needed to build their churches.

Studies have shown that, in general, Greek Orthodox people throughout America are not trained to give as some other religious groups give, who give 10% of everything they earn to the Church. (This is called "tithing," and it comes to us right out of the Bible!) Nor are we trained to give large sums of money to the Church. (Yes, we read about people giving large amounts of money, but they're giving to museums, to universities, to hospitals, etc.)

The same studies show that, in giving from what we have "left over," to the Church, i.e. the very least that we can get away with, we justify what we give by saying "there are others who are wealthy; let *them* give." But, let's consider: why should we think that someone else, rather we ourselves, should be building *our church*? Yes, it would be great if this could happen, but this is not reality. And, yes, we are very proud of our faith, our culture and our heritage. We identify very closely with these things, except when it comes time to go deep into our pockets to offer financial support, commensurate with our budgets or with the task before us, and this is to build our church.

No one likes being asked for money. Even less, no one likes asking for money. However, this must be done if we are going to get anywhere, and, so, the process of asking goes on. The only thing that gives us the courage to ask is that this is a very worthy cause: it will ensure the future of our Church for the generations to come. Those who are doing the asking are not asking anything for themselves, but only for the Church. And, yes, every gift, no matter what size, is greatly appreciated and gratefully received. This is how we got to the \$2 million mark.

Allow us, then, to continue to ask you for your participation. Meanwhile, if you wish to step up and offer your gift, as some have, we invite you to get in touch with Father Stephen, or Tom Nuris or Tom Papageorge (Chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee), or communicate with Father Scott directly, frscottsa@gmail.com. Years from now, when you or your offspring look back, you will have the greatest satisfaction of all, knowing how you were a part of the most important building event in your life...building up the House of God!

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS DECEMBER 11/ BOARD OF AUDITORS ELECTED

Parishioners of the Cathedral who are members in good standing will have the opportunity to vote for eight members of the Parish Council to a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2012. The elections will take place following the Divine Liturgy. The Board of Elections, which consists of **Annette Chiappari**, **Kalliope Fousekis**, and **Basil Tonas** will oversee the elections and tally the results. Once the elections are ratified by His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos, the newly elected members will take their oath of office on Sunday, January 8. Following the administration of the oath of office, the newly elected members will meet, together with the seven members who were elected to a two-year term in 2010, and elect Parish Council Officers for 2012.

Meanwhile, at the Parish Assembly convened on November 13, 2011, the following were elected to the Board of Auditors: **Philippos Athanasiades**, **Matt Marca**, and **John Zambelis**. In accordance with the Archdiocese Regulations and the Parish By-Laws, they will examine the Cathedral's books, from time to time, and make recommendations, so that the Cathedral can better serve you. The Cathedral endeavors to maintain the highest standards in all areas, including its bookkeeping, management, and reporting. Accuracy and transparency are paramount when it comes to parish finances. The Cathedral is always open to suggestions and recommendations, as it endeavors to better serve its parishioners. The Board of Auditors will discuss its findings with the Parish Council and submit a report at the spring, 2012 Parish Assembly. That Assembly will take place on Sunday, March 11, 2012.

*"With faith, Christ comes into the heart,
and with Christ comes love."*

Saint Nikolai Velimirovic

STEWARSHIP SUNDAY AND ANNUAL METROPOLIS STEWARSHIP SEMINAR IN DECEMBER

By now, the majority of those reading this newsletter will have seen at least a portion of our 2012 Stewardship Campaign in church the last several Sundays. Coordinated by the very capable members of the Stewardship Committee- **Gus Vouchilas, Nick Svetcoff, Niko Stathopoulos, Chris Kyriacou, and Perri Nager** - this year's campaign has included a video presentation on the Sunday School's United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) fundraiser, thoughts from a guest speaker about the urban ministry of Archangel Bookstore, and everyone's favorite remarks from four GOYAns about giving to the Church and their relationships with God. As in years past, all of this culminates in our Stewardship Sunday on December 4, in which all the members of our parish are invited to offer their commitment card (which you have by now received in the mail) together, as well as attend the free luncheon that will follow.

Also, please see the attached flier about the 2011 Metropolis Stewardship Seminar, this year, to be held at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont on December 3. This annual seminar has been very well-received each year, and this year will feature two dynamic speakers from Atlanta, GA, who are also part of the Stewardship Committee of the Archdiocese. Any parishioners interested in attending the event along with **Father Stephen** and **Father Niko** and members of the parish council, are invited to do so.

Igniting the Flame of True Orthodox Christian Stewardship

The Gospel of Stewardship 101 & 201

Saturday, December 3, 2011
Noon – 5:00 PM • Lunch Provided

Hosted by

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
900 Alameda (@ Ralston Ave) • Belmont, CA • (650) 591-4447 • office@goholycross.org

National Stewardship Travel Team Members Bill Marianes & George Matthews

PHILOPTOCHOS ANGEL TREE PROJECT

The Philoptochos Angel Tree project begins Sunday, November 20th. This year our goal is to provide gifts to 30 children from the SF Boys and Girls Club and to 20 families from the Hamilton Family Center. The children from the Boys and Girls Club will range from 6-12 yrs old. Some items on their wish list include school supplies, arts and crafts projects and board games. Families from Hamilton are transitioning from homelessness to temporary or permanent housing. They are in need of kitchen items (pots, pans, dishes, utensils), linens, blankets and towels. Gift cards from Target, Ross and Old Navy are also welcomed. Each organization has suggested a price range of \$30-\$60. How can you participate? The Christmas tree in the entry way will be decorated with gift tags. Each tag will include either a child's or family's wish list. Bring back your unwrapped gift to the church by Sunday, December 11th. **Vivian Curd** is organizing the project this year. She will be delivering the collected gifts to both organizations. Call Vivian with any questions at **650-873-6055**.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

There's a feeling of excitement in the air! We look forward to the great feast of the Nativity and celebrating with family and friends. In this busy time our Annunciation Philoptochos continues to work to promote our commitment to all our ministries and programs.

In December we support the **Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund**. Not only do we work to support this important program through a financial donation but many of us will attend the Christmas Luncheon at Ascension Cathedral on December 10, 2011. All proceeds of this event will support our Seminarians/students at Hellenic College / Holy Cross in Brookline, Massachusetts. Our Metropolis has been the guardian of this program since its establishment in the 1980's. It is through this fund that our future priests, educators and pastoral assistants are supported. This year there are 23 of our students at HC/HC being supported financially and spiritually. If you are interested in attending this magnificent Christmas event filled with beautiful trees and Christmas delights contact Pat Aleck at (415)-566-8544 or 864-8000 Ext. 815. ***Let's support the future priests in our Metropolis!***

Our **Angel Tree Project** is up and running under the chairmanship of Vivian Curd. This year our support of gifts will go the Boys and Girls Club and the Hamilton House. Please read the attached paragraph which explains the program and how important your donation is. This season is a special time of giving and to those less fortunate our gifts mean a great deal. So stop by and pick out your ornaments!

Our annual **Vasilopita** will be held on Sunday, January 8, 2012. This event has become a tradition in our community with a meal and breaking of the breads. This will be an extra special event as we will be **honoring Past Philoptochos President Angie Leventis**. Angie has worked so hard in all aspects of our Cathedral that our ladies felt it was important for our whole community to give thanks to her. We will be baking our Vasilopitas on Saturday January 7, 2012. Please join us!

Our annual **Crab Feed** will be held on Friday, January 27, 2012. This event is one of our biggest fund raisers to support all our programs. So get ready to dig in and feast on the scrumptious crab. Look for more information to follow.

On behalf of the members of Philoptochos I extend our best wishes for a most memorable Christmas for all and a healthy New Year. We thank all for your continued love and support.

With Love in Christ,

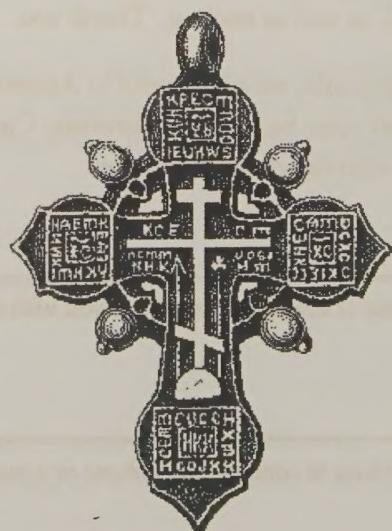
Patricia Aleck, President

A "LINK" TO THOSE IN NEED

Community Link is a group of Annunciation parishioners who meet once a month on a drop-in basis to visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. We travel to hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. Many of those we visit no longer have family or friends to support them and just need to know there is someone who cares. A short visit or phone call can lift one's spirits a great deal. If anyone in the community knows of any other home bound parishioners to add to our list, please contact Pauline Oetzel at poetzel@hotmail.com or 415/586-3411.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY LINK MEETINGS IN 2012:

**January 21
February 18
and March 17.**



THE CATHEDRAL'S 2011 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Yes, it is that time. The time when we gather names of parishioners who wish to extend greetings to one another via the Cathedral's Christmas card. The card is sent to over 1,000 homes. What a wonderful way to extend best wishes to one another, particularly during these challenging, yet, exciting times. Your greeting brings hope and encouragement to one another, since it celebrates the Birth of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. We recognize that, in this digital age, the sending of paper Christmas cards is fast becoming a thing of the past. But, that's for people who strictly communicate by electronic means, such as by e-mail, Facebook, and, generally, the Internet. However, there's something heartwarming about receiving a real card. What a welcome addition a "real" Christmas card is, coming as it does amid a mound of circulars, catalogues and general junk mail. For, the Christmas card announces the basic truth of our salvation: Christ is Born!

You may participate in the Community Christmas Card in one of three ways: 1. By clipping the form below and sending it back to the Cathedral; 2. By calling the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000 and telling us you wish to be included; or 3. by responding to **Mary Tonas, Calliope Fousekis, and Annamarie Balian** on Sundays, following the Liturgy. They will staff a special "Christmas Card Table" during the coffee fellowship hour until Sunday, December 11. After this date, the names will be sent to the printers for processing. Your gift of \$25 per line helps defray the cost of the card, as well as mailing. Thank you.

Meanwhile, we are grateful to **Annette Chiappari**, who for many years headed the Christmas Card effort. Our prayers are with her during this time.

Name (Please print exactly as you wish it to appear on the card)

Best way to contact you (phone or e mail)

AN ORTHODOX MISSIONARY PRESENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO

If you have ever walked along 9th and Irving near Golden Gate Park, you may or may not have spotted a red awning with the words "Archangel Bookstore" written on it. If you did happen to walk inside, you would have seen a store full of Orthodox Christian books, icons and some liturgical items, including an iconostasis in the back of the store for chapel services! This gem of a bookstore has operated in San Francisco for nearly two decades, offering talks and discussions on Orthodox Christianity for interested San Franciscans. Speakers in the past have included His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas, Father Aris Metrakos and Father Niko Bekris, and talks have typically averaged 20-30 people. Not officially under any particular Orthodox jurisdiction (i.e. Greek, Antiochian, OCA, etc), Archangel Bookstore is a quite literally an Orthodox outreach ministry for everyone, actively promoting the Good News of Jesus Christ in San Francisco.

The bookstore is an urban ministry, which was referred to in the homily on November 27. As we heard in church that day, this very special ministry is a beautiful form of stewardship, and is worth being promoted and supported, however possible, within our parish and all parishes in the Bay Area. Please continue to keep reading the Sunday bulletins and the *Cathedral Herald* for upcoming news and information on how our parish can help contribute to this program.



November 2011: Our Cathedral GOYA on November 14, right before playing indoor soccer in the gym.

Youth News- November 2011

Sunday School Korner

Wow, we have great attendance in each class and lessons are really moving along. November was a month learning about all the things we are thankful for and December we teach giving at all levels. Watch the handout coming home from your teachers and engage with your child/children about the lessons learned.

December is highlighted by the Christmas Program on December 18th immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Corinthias Center. This is a community favorite and you won't want to miss out! Warm up your voice, as you will want to participate in our community sing along. Parents, teachers and students have been busy preparing for a heartwarming play. Practice will occur every Sunday with the children and attendance is very important, even though this is a busy time of year. Children are assigned parts in November and those missing too many rehearsals will be in the chorus. Would you like to volunteer, or do you have questions about the program? Contact Chrisoula Pezo our Director.

Please remember we are in the middle of our annual Food Drive, ending Dec. 19. Bins for food drop off are located in the Cathedral halls. Please help us teach the children the importance of giving to those less fortunate. Remember: Canned goods are preferred, but all non-perishables accepted. Please no glass containers. Our goal is over 200 pounds this year! (see details below)

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Halloween Party after church on October 30th. The children were adorable and a good time was had by all. Thank you to the upper school students who participated in the UNICEF program. This was our first year participating and we were able to collect money for children to have clean drinking water for 1 month. Thank you!

Denise Yielding, Sunday School Principal

Annunciation's Greek Language Program Resumes

The Cathedral is pleased to announce that its Greek Language Program began its fourth year last September! The mission of the program is threefold: 1) to teach our children the Greek language, 2) to explore Hellenic culture, and 3) to connect our Greek-American children and Greek expatriates with the historical and cultural characteristics of Greece.

We currently offer 4 grade levels with a small teacher-student ratio as follows:

Level 1 (Ages 4-5) taught by Maria Panostopoulou (currently not accepting students)

Level 2 (Ages 6-7) taught by Sotiria Mitrosyli-Bouna

Level 3 (Ages 7-8) taught by Lizabeta Koukkou

Level 4 (Ages 8+) taught by Paris Apostolopoulos

This year, there are a total of 30 students enrolled! Classes are held Saturday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00 pm. Tuition is \$200 per student. If you are interested in registering your child please contact Pamfilia Zambelis at pzambelis@yahoo.com.

** On Sunday, December 25 and Jan. 1 the Sunday School will be on vacation. Families are encouraged to attend Liturgy together. Classes will resume Jan. 8th, 2012.

*** Food Drive - Check that items are still within their "Use before" date. Avoid glass items, which can break.

BEST CHOICES:

Rice

Pasta

Proteins like tuna or canned meats

Peanut butter

Stews and soups

(especially low sodium products)

Latino and Asian ingredients

100% fruit juices

Canned fruits and vegetables

Breakfast cereal

If you would like to learn more about hunger in the Bay Area, please go to:
<http://www.sffoodbank.org/holidays.html>.



Some of our adorable kids in costume on October 30, for the Sunday School costume parade.

NEW ALTAR BOY GROUP SCHEDULE

Since the last altar boy schedule was put together two years ago, several new young men have stepped forward to serve the Lord in this very special way. Therefore, in order to have a solid group of altar servers each week, and so as not to interfere with Sunday School attendance, a new schedule of altar servers has been made, to begin Sunday, December 4. The groups are as follow:

Group 1: Harry Misthos (group leader), Niko Pezo, Stelio Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos and Demetri Rally

Group 2: Anthony Obester, Dimitri Kontonis, Bobby Kontonis, Niko Manetas, and Steven Manolakis

Group 3: Steven Flynn, Clint Flynn, Antonio Panagiotopoulos and Steven Panagiotopoulos

Group 4: Vasili Loufas, Andrew Nuris, Jonas and Nathan Tesfai

The Schedule for December is as follows:

December 4: Group 1

December 11: Group 2

December 18: Group 3

December 25: Group 4

Feel free to email Father Niko at
fatherniko@annunciation.org with any questions.
Thanks!

GOYA MEETS TO DISCUSS UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Cathedral GOYA met last November 14 at the Cathedral to share what events our GOYA leaders have planned out for the next three months, along with ideas for upcoming events that our other GOYAns would like to see. In all, fifteen GOYAns met (five of whom were new GOYAns in junior high) and had pizza and cookies in the conference room, followed by indoor soccer in the Kytherian Room.

Our next GOYA event will be a Christmas pajama party on December 16 in the Cathedral gym, which will include bringing goods for the homeless, watching Christmas movies with dinner and hot chocolate, followed by Divine Liturgy (for Saint Dionysios, December 17) and a Secret Santa program the next morning. Upcoming events will also include kickball at a field in January, dodgeball, movie nights, and hopefully a regional indoor soccer tournament in April/May.

A reminder that GOYA is open to all youth grades 7-12. Please join us!

CATHEDRAL YOUNG ADULT GROUP HOLDS FIRST BIBLE STUDY

Last November 17, our community's Young Adult group held their first ever Bible study in place of the usual monthly dinner (although dinner was provided at the discussion, as well). In all, fifteen young adults came to the church to participate in a discussion on "Dating and the Book of Genesis," led by Father Niko. That evening, the group discussed Chapter 24 of the Book of Genesis, and clips from the show "Friends" and the movie "Office Space" were also incorporated. It was a wonderful time, especially considering that this type of event had not yet been offered in our young adult program. Given its success, there will definitely be another discussion/dinner in the near future.

On Thursday, December 15, our young adults will have a dinner at a restaurant to be determined, along with a "Kris Kringle" (White Elephant) gift exchange at the dinner. All young adults (typically ages 22-35) are welcome to attend.

For more information on any of the Cathedral's youth ministries, please contact **Father Niko Bekris** at fatherniko@annunciation.org, or visit the "Youth of Annunciation Cathedral" Facebook page.



The Cathedral young adult group, having just enjoyed dinner and discussion on "Dating and the Book of Genesis," on November 17.



Services & Sacraments At The Cathedral

BAPTISMS

Sophia Mavra, daughter of Dennis and Eugenia Vorries, was baptized on Saturday, November 13, by her sponsors Diamandis and Tina Kourkouzelis.

Na mas zisoun!

JOY NEWS

Our wonderful Cathedral JOY group met at the Kontonis home in Millbrae last November 8, and had a wonderful time! Ten JOY kids and several of their parents came to enjoy games, dinner, and fellowship, and a discussion led by Father Niko. The theme of the meeting was angels, given that the JOY meeting took place on the feast day of the Archangels. Thanks again to the Kontonis family for hosting us!

Our next JOY meeting will be at the Pezo home on Monday, December 12 at 6:30 - not on the first Tuesday, as is usually the case, because Father Niko will be away at a clergy retreat at Saint Nicholas Ranch that day.

JOY is open to all youth grades 3-6. Hope to see you there!

Save the Date



Sunday School Christmas Celebration

Sunday, December 18, 2011

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy

Christmas Program

Luncheon, Crafts and Santa!

As we start to assign parts for our special program, we need to know if your child will not be able to attend the program.

Please tell your Sunday School teacher if you will be absent

FOOD: THE MEAL KEY

The San Francisco Food Bank supplies food to more than 600 programs operated by partnering community agencies serving thousands of San Francisco families, seniors, children, and individuals.

With your help, the Food Bank can distribute food for over 70,000 meals a day.

Holiday Food Drive

Shopping List

- rice & pasta
- canned fruit & vegetables
- tuna
- canned meats
- soups, stews & chili
- peanut butter
- cereal

No glass containers, please

look for our barrel

www.sffoodbank.org San Francisco Food Bank 415.668.8000

**His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
and The Metropolis of
San Francisco Philoptochos Board and Chapters
Invite You and Your Friends to**



The Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund Christmas Luncheon

Southern California

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Saint Nicholas Church

9501 Balboa Boulevard

Northridge, CA 91325

Northern California

Saturday, December 10, 2011

Ascension Cathedral

4700 Lincoln Avenue

Oakland, California 94602

An Elegant 11 a.m. Reception and a Superb Luncheon at Noon includes Christmas Tree Drawings with a fabulous Christmas Boutique, Entertainment and Guest Speakers

Proceeds will benefit the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund which supports Our Seminarians from Our Metropolis at the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary Brookline, Massachusetts

For further information:

Genie Kontos (818) 360-7831

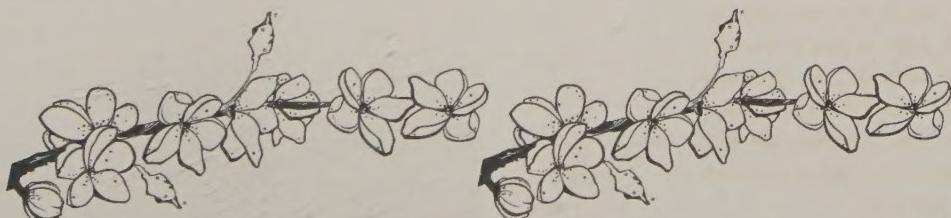
Northridge, California

Joanne Booras (925) 736-1343

Oakland, California

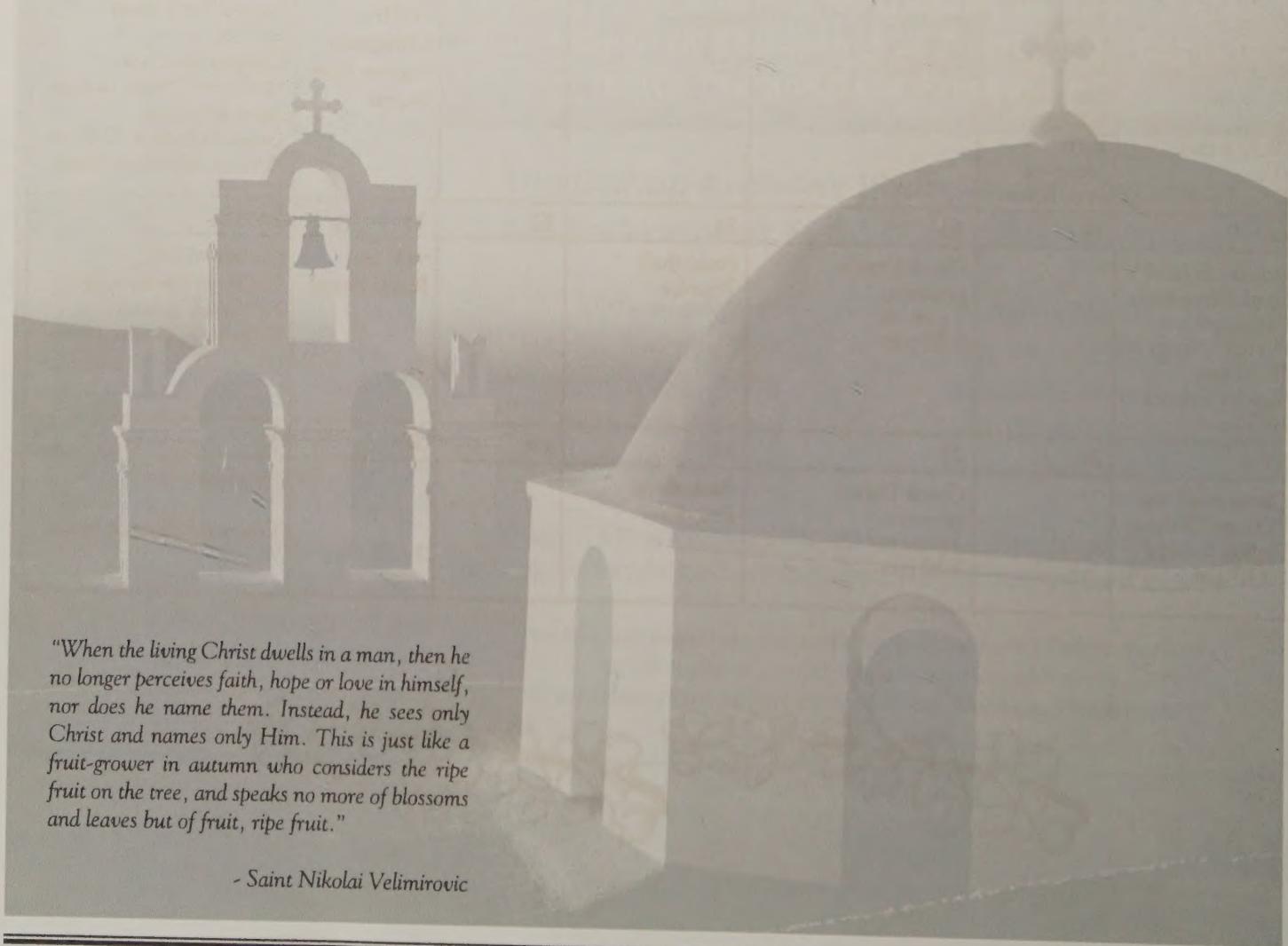
D E C E M B E R C A L E N D A R

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURS. | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|---|---------------------|-----------|--|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | | | Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon 12:00- 5:00 pm: Metropolis Stewardship Seminar, Holy Cross Church, Belmont |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Stewardship Sunday Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. | | 10:30 am: Divine Liturgy, Saint Nicholas (to be celebrated at Saint Nicholas Church, 5200 Diamond Heights Boulevard) Greek Dance Practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. | Basketball Practice | | | Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Parish Council Elections Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. | 10:00 am: Divine Liturgy for Saint Spyridon 6:30 pm: JOY Meeting, Pezo home | Greek Dance practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. | Basketball Practice | | 6:30 pm: GOYA Christmas Pajama Party Ends 9:00 am: Community Link | GOYA Christmas Pajama Party Ends 9:00 am: Community Link 10:00 am: Divine Liturgy, Saint Dionysios Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Sunday School Food Drive Ends Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. | | Greek Dance practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. | Basketball Practice | | 9:00 am Royal Hours | Christmas Eve 10:00 am Divine Liturgy No Greek School Eritrean School at Noon |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Christmas Day, 9:00 am Orthros Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. | | Greek Dance practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. | Basketball Practice | | | New Years Eve Eritrean School at Noon |



UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
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"When the living Christ dwells in a man, then he no longer perceives faith, hope or love in himself, nor does he name them. Instead, he sees only Christ and names only Him. This is just like a fruit-grower in autumn who considers the ripe fruit on the tree, and speaks no more of blossoms and leaves but of fruit, ripe fruit."

- Saint Nikolai Velimirovic